

CARRANZA'S POWER WANES; OBREGON TO MEET SCOTT

FINANCIERS TO DECIDE COURSE OF GERMAN

Kaiser Will Inquire Effect of Break on Economic Conditions Before Replying to U. S. Ultimatum.

CHANCELLOR RETURNS FROM BATTLE FRONT

Bethman-Hollweg Ready to Confer With Gerard Following His Audience With Emperor William.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Germany's merchant princes and bankers, the men who have made the financing of the war to date possible, will have the last say in the relations of that nation with the United States.

It was officially stated today that so far no authentic information has been received by Ambassador Gerard as to the expected stand of the German government.

He has sent a summary of editorial comment and a definite account of his reception at the Berlin foreign office. But he has emphasized that the decision of the German empire will be reached by the emperor himself and that no one has any idea as yet what the decision will be.

It is understood here that by direction of the president, Ambassador Gerard has made it very plain to the German foreign office that this government cannot consent to any long drawn out parleys over the latest note. It calls for a direct answer, the foreign office has been told, and nothing but such a reply will be received as satisfactory.

A matter of grave concern in official circles today was the reported sinking of four more vessels by German submarines. It is accepted everywhere as a fact if there is a single violation of American rights while the present negotiations are on, that as soon as the proof is in the hands of the state department, a diplomatic break will be ordered. Officials do not try to disguise their belief that this is the most serious outstanding danger at the present moment.

Americans Not Afraid. So far as the question of getting Americans out of Germany in case of a break is concerned, officials say there is no need to worry on that score. Emergency arrangements were made by Ambassador Gerard at the time the Lusitania was sunk, and these arrangements continue in effect. The Berlin embassy has plenty of emergency funds on hand. But, according to all advices reaching here, Americans consider themselves perfectly safe under present conditions and are showing no desire to leave Germany at all.

CHANCELLOR RETURNS

BERLIN, April 24.—Dr. von Bethman-Hollweg, the imperial chancellor, is expected to confer today with James W. Gerard, the United States ambassador, and it is believed that the German reply to the ultimatum of the United States will have been sent to Washington before 48 hours elapse.

Since the chancellor returned from great headquarters, where he conferred with the kaiser, speculation as to the German reply has been general, but no one undertook to prophesy definitely what attitude Germany would adopt.

Dr. von Jagow, the foreign minister, has a mass of data before him and it was considered likely that he, too, would confer with Mr. Gerard either today or this evening.

There was a disposition on the part of some to believe that Germany would make concessions if the United States would guarantee to exact concessions from the allies. Germany has contended all along that the British blockade is illegal and that the allies are just as guilty of infringements of the laws of hu-

German Humanity League Assails Count Bernstorff

ROTTERDAM, April 24.—Dutch papers print the contents of a circular issued by the German Humanity League, in which a bitter attack is made against Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States and others.

In part it follows: "The speech of Pres't Wilson in the American congress and the pastoral letter of Cardinal Mercier, archbishop of Malines, constitute evidence whereon every German caring for honor and justice may strike a blow against such infamous scoundrels as Admiral von Tripitz, Count von Bernstorff and Gen. von Bissing, the German governor-general of Belgium, as well as their agents, who have disgraced the nation and branded us with crimes without parallel in ancient or modern history. The international law codes, the laws of hospitality and the usages of war, as well as every decent obligation of human society, have been set at naught in the United States by Count von Bernstorff."

RIVER REGULATION BEFORE CONGRESS

Newlands-Broussard Measure Has Approval of President and Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Lines were drawn in congress today for a battle royal over river regulation between the supporters of the Humphreys-Ransdell bill and the advocates of the Newlands-Broussard bill.

The Newlands-Broussard bill drafted along the lines recommended to the president by Sec'y of the Interior Lane, Sec'y of Commerce Redfield and Sec'y of Agriculture Houston, was introduced in the senate today by Sen. Newlands of Nevada, and in a condensed form in the house of representatives by Rep. Cresser of Ohio.

The total appropriation made in the bill is \$60,000,000, of which \$25,000,000 goes to the lower Mississippi and Illinois rivers, constituting the route of the lake-to-the-gulf waterway.

The bill also appropriates \$5,000,000 to the Ohio; \$5,000,000 to the upper Mississippi; \$5,000,000 to the Missouri, the Arkansas and Red rivers, and other tributaries of the Mississippi; \$5,000,000 to the Atlantic coast and gulf rivers; \$5,000,000 to the Columbia and Snake rivers; \$5,000,000 to the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and \$5,000,000 to the other California rivers and the Colorado river.

World Create Council. The measure also would create a national waterways council, putting river regulation in the hands of the war, interior, commerce and agricultural departments, with the design of eliminating the "pork" in river improvement appropriations by congress.

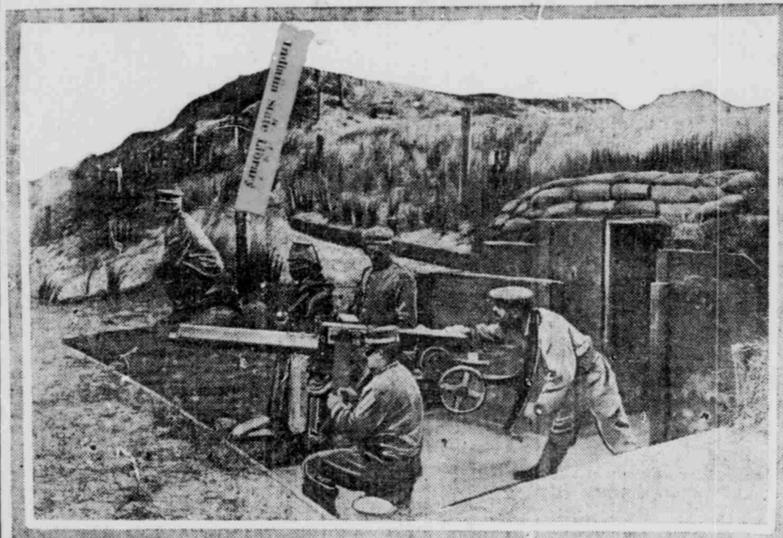
After failing to agree with Sen. Ransdell and Rep. Humphreys on the river regulation legislation, Sen. Newlands today gave out a statement denouncing the Ransdell-Humphreys bill as a "pork barrel" measure. "It was most ungenerous," said Newlands, "to insist upon this old and objectionable piecemeal and pork barrel system being irrevocably imposed on all other sections of the United States while seeking for the Mississippi river alone so large an appropriation as \$45,000,000, without any recognition of the sufferings of the people on many other flood rivers, such as the Savannah, the Brazos, the Ohio and its tributaries, the Arkansas, the Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri and Colorado rivers and many other flood menaced communities which might be named in the United States."

BUILD BOAT IN APARTMENT. NEW YORK, April 24.—John Peterson built the detachable motor boat, Exasperation, 15 feet long and six feet wide, in the front room of his apartment and will launch it in pieces from a second story window.

When You Do Not Get Your News-Times

call Bell 2100 or Home 1151, ask for the Circulation Department, and make the complaint. Serving so many thousands of homes every day makes occasional lapses possible. Your complaint will be welcomed and the matter remedied.

Germans Defending Belgian Coast



COAST DEFENSE MACHINE GUN. © INTL. FILM SERVICE.

This photograph shows one of the coast defense stations constructed by the Germans in the sand dunes on the Belgian coast to repel attacks by English war vessels. The particular station is manned by German marines.

PITTSBURGH RIVEN BY LABOR BATTLE

24,000 Miners and 16,000 Electrical Workers Are Out on Strike.

PITTSBURGH, April 24.—Half the coal mines in the Pittsburgh district are idle today. Twenty-four thousand miners are on strike at 70 mines. The men refused to work today because of the Pittsburgh Coal Co.'s failure to include the five per cent increase granted the bituminous miners in the interstate agreement reached in New York, in Saturday's payroll.

Other mines granted the increase and resumed operations as usual this morning. During the morning no disorder was reported at any of the mining communities and officers of the United Mine Workers say they expect none.

International News Service: PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 24.—Numerous clashes occurred today when 40 deputies guarding the East Pittsburgh plant of the Westinghouse Electric and Mfg. Co., where 16,000 men and women are on strike, attempted to disperse great crowds that gathered around the entrances. The deputies were roughly handled and many were forced to use their clubs to protect themselves.

When the doors to this plant were opened today the strikers again linked hands, forming a human chain about the entrances. The chain the deputies once succeeded in breaking, but it was re-formed and further attempts to sever it up to the time the doors were closed were futile.

All saloons in East Pittsburgh are closed today at the request of the authorities and the strike leaders. An effort is being made to prevent the shipment of liquor into the borough.

Fred H. Merrick, one of the strike leaders, in an address to the strikers today advised them to arm themselves. He said he had learned the company intended bringing the state constabulary—"the cossacks," he called them. Blue steel revolvers, he said, would not flash so much and would be harder to detect. "And get plenty of ammunition," he said.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 24.—Entering the final week of the present wage scale contract, which expires next Monday, officials of the street carmen's union and the Pittsburgh Railway Co. renewed their conferences today. There are a number of minor demands, but the principal issue is the wage scale. A strike is in prospect if the company does not give ground.

In the Pittsburgh papers there appeared today an advertisement signed by 75 local firms which declare that "the undersigned, after due consideration, have unanimously decided that they will not reduce working hours in their respective shops."

Among the signers are the Westinghouse Electric and Mfg. Co., at whose plant 16,000 employees are now on strike; the Westinghouse Machine Co. and the Westinghouse Air Brake Co.

PROGRESS of the War

International News Service: BERLIN (via Sayville wireless), April 24.—Denial is made through the Overseas News agency that Russia has made any peace overtures to Germany.

International News Service: LONDON, April 24.—A German aeroplane attempted today to raid the channel port of Dover. The war office announced this afternoon that the hostile machine had been driven off and that no damage was done.

International News Service: PARIS, April 24.—Further progress was made by the French offensive on the front northwest of Verdun last night. In an attack with hand grenades in Caurettes woods, (west of the Meuse), the French took 30 prisoners.

Announcement of the French gain was contained in an official communique issued by the French war office today.

International News Service: BERLIN, April 24.—Attacks by the French on both sides of the Meuse river in the Verdun sector were repulsed by the Germans last night, it was announced by the war office today.

Northeast of Avocourt and east of Le Mort Homme (Dead Man's hill), French infantry assaults were launched against the German positions, but all were failures.

East of the Meuse, near Thiaumont farm, the attack of the French, although very determined, broke down under the fire of the Germans.

SOUVENIR SHELL EXPLODED. WAKEFIELD, Mass., April 24.—While John H. Busch was picking with a steel instrument at a souvenir shell taken from the battleship Maine, which was blown up in Havana harbor, the shell exploded killing Busch and fatally injuring his young son.

Late News Bulletins

ONE TROOPER KILLED. International News Service: NAMIQUIPA, Mexico (via radio to Columbus, N. M.), April 24.—One American trooper was killed and three were wounded in an engagement on April 19 between the band of Villistas and Maj. Howze's flying column of picked horsemen of the 11th cavalry, according to an official report made to Gen. Pershing by Maj. Howze on his arrival here today.

TO AMEND BILL. International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 24.—The Burnett immigration bill probably will be amended as a result of the Japan protest against certain features of the measure, it was learned on high authority today.

GET BRITAIN'S REPLY. International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 24.—Great Britain's reply to the protest of the United States against the interference with American trade under the British orders-in-council, was today delivered to the state department. The American protest was sent to Great Britain last November.

QUAKES IN BAILE. International News Service: SANTO DOMINGO, April 24.—Severe earthquake shocks caused heavy damage throughout the island of Haiti last night and early today. Communication with interior points was broken off and it is feared there has been a heavy loss of life.

1,130 ARE DROWNED. International News Service: SHANGHAI, April 24.—Additional details of the sinking of the Chinese transport Hsin Yu, received here today, indicated that about 1,130 lives were lost instead of a thousand as originally reported.

M'COMBS QUILTS AFTER CONVENTION

Chairman of Democratic National Committee Will Decline New Term.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—William F. McCombs, chairman of the democratic national committee, has made it plain to Pres't Wilson that he will be unable to serve, even though he might be chosen to do so, as chairman of the committee after the St. Louis convention.

Mr. McCombs communicated his intention to retire to the president and the latter has sent the chairman a letter expressing regret because he feels that he must take this step. The elimination of Mr. McCombs has been foreseen for some time. At the time of the December meeting of the national committee it was reported that he planned to retire because he was out of sympathy with the majority of the members. Mr. McCombs, however, denied this and insisted that he would finish his term which ends when the new committee, which meets immediately after the convention adjourns, organizes. Officials here today and democratic politicians generally said that they believed McCombs would be succeeded by Fred Lynch of Minnesota, now chairman of the national executive committee.

RAN MULE CAR. ANDERSON, Ind., April 24.—An "old time" resident has discovered that Dixon C. Williams, appointed Chicago postmaster by Pres't Wilson, operated the first mule car line here. He left Anderson when electric competition came in.

STEAL \$2,000 IN JEWELS. CHICAGO, April 24.—Burglars early today broke through the skylight of the Grand Jewelry Co. in 12, 63d st., and escaped with jewels valued at \$2,000.

It is authoritatively made plain that if Germany will meet the views of the United States relative to curbing the actions of her submarine commanders she will find that the United States will meet her half way in negotiations that must follow for the purpose of determining just what is and what is not legal in submarine warfare.

Orders Papers Returned. In addition it is intimated in official circles that there will be no attempt made to inject any foreign matter into the situation by this government. Confirmation of this fact was seen today in the orders sent by Sec'y Lansing to Atty. Gen. Gregory that "all official papers" seized in the arrest of Wolf von Igel in New York are to be turned back to Ambassador von Bernstorff. While this demand and to continue the pressure to have him meet the American viewpoint.

Although the regular cabinet meeting scheduled for tomorrow was called off because Pres't Wilson has decided to go to Princeton to vote, he will get the views of Sec'y Lansing and Baker on the latest developments in the Mexican situation before leaving, and will authorize such action as they deem best.

WANTS TO SEE WAR ENDED. NEW YORK, April 24.—Mrs. Edna M. Hawkins, who has just celebrated her 101st birthday, declares her greatest desire is not to live longer, but to see Europe's great war ended.

ALL OFFICERS ARE RECALLED TO THEIR POSTS

Army and Navy in Active Preparations For Eventualities That May Arise Soon.

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY DOESN'T COVER CRIMES

Atty. Gen. Gregory Rules Embassy Officials Cannot Escape if Evidence Shows Criminal Activity.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 24.—Atty. Gen. Gregory today ruled that diplomatic immunity from arrest does not extend to cases in which a diplomat is guilty of criminal offenses against the government of the United States.

The ruling was made at the request of department of justice officials who are handling the case of Wolf von Igel, arrested on charges of being involved in the plot to destroy the Welland canal.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 24.—The United States is taking no chances on being caught napping either in international affairs or in Mexico. While officials are hoping that Germany will decide to accept the American viewpoint regarding her conduct of submarine warfare against merchant ships and that the new complications in Mexico may be adjusted without further recourse to arms, the activity in army and navy circles is growing increasingly feverish.

Today leaves of absence of 43 naval officers were cancelled by direct orders of Sec'y Daniels. At the same time instructions were issued that no additional applications for leaves will be considered at this time. Leaves to army officers were cancelled last week and all the commissioned personnel of both the army and the navy are under orders to report to regiments or ships. In addition the two departments are in touch with all retired officers so that in case of need they can be called to active service immediately.

No Definite Information. There is no definite information obtainable regarding the German submarine situation. Ambassador Gerard has communicated to Sec'y Lansing all of the information he has been able to secure, but it is admitted that it is still far from definite. Messages received here today are understood to refer to conferences which the ambassador held on Sunday with attaches of the foreign office, but so far he has failed to send any information regarding his conference with the imperial chancellor, Dr. von Bethman-Hollweg. The feeling in official circles naturally is hopeful because of the belief that if she so desires, Germany can extend her regulations governing her Mediterranean warfare to the Anglo-French naval war zone and thus meet the views of the United States.

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Felix Diaz Rising To Mexican Power; Carranza Loses

International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 24.—The downfall of the Carranza rule in Mexico is in sight. Because of his attitude toward all of his advisers, officials declared today that there was little doubt that Venustiano Carranza will be superseded as head of the de facto government, if indeed he already has not been, in the very near future.

That it was learned upon the best of authority today, is the real reason why Sec'y of War Baker has consented to a re-distribution of the American punitive expedition in Mexico. This re-distribution will so place all of the American forces both in interior Mexico and all along the border, that they can take care of any situation that might arise.

And while Carranza's sun is setting, that of Felix Diaz and the men who are backing him in a new revolutionary movement, is rising. The nephew of the old dictator has unlimited funds behind the movement he is now heading to take over control of Mexico. Much of this money was raised in the United States and administration officials know that when Diaz started for Havana he carried with him \$2,000,000 in gold and credits for five times that sum to aid him in his movement. If Diaz is able to overthrow Carranza, and at the same time carry into his camp a large number of the Carranzista followers who have been lukewarm in their support of the "first chief," he may yet be able to get official American support for his plans.

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MAY SEND MILITIA TO MEXICO LINE

Army Officers Face Alternative of Using Coast Artillery or National Guard.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Satisfied that the American punitive expedition into Mexico cannot be recalled under existing circumstances, even though a break with Carranza shall result from keeping the troops there, the administration was today concerning itself with the problem of getting additional troops for border service. The 4,000 infantry and cavalry still in northern posts, are expected to be ordered south at once. This, however, will not furnish sufficient forces and army officials are debating whether it is best to call upon the coast artillery for its spare men, organized as infantry, or to accept the picked columns of national guardsmen who are besieging the war department for the opportunity to see service.

The troops now in the field are in a bad way through shortage of supplies of every kind. Because of the pressure is being brought to bear upon the state department to force concessions from Carranza. An important exchange of messages is in progress between Sec'y Lansing and Consul Gen. Rodgers at Mexico City dealing with the entire proposition, but all information regarding what he wanted is withheld. There is no doubt that the administration is making another determined effort to get the de facto government of Mexico to see things through its glasses, and to consent to the use of the Mexican railways to supply the American forces.

Take Infinite Stand. It is also known that Consul Gen. Rodgers again has been instructed to make it plain to Gen. Carranza that if his forces get Villa then the American expedition will be withdrawn forthwith, but that it cannot be recalled while the bandit is at large and presumably recruiting a new and stronger band with which to attack Americans so soon as their guard is back beyond the Mexican border.

Carranza has demanded that the United States reply to his note demanding the withdrawal of the American troops before he will discuss any other matter, but there was a strong disposition in evidence in official quarters today to disregard this demand and to continue the pressure to have him meet the American viewpoint.

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U. S. DECISION PUTS TROOPS IN GRAVE PERIL

Carranzistas Reported to Have Attacked Small Force of Americans Near Satero Sunday.

FUNSTON IS LIKELY TO MAKE BORDER INSPECTION

Scott Remains in San Antonio But is Reticent Upon Object of Retaining Troops in Mexico.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 24.—Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief-of-staff of the United States army, will confer at Eagle Pass, Texas, with Gen. Alvaro Obregon, minister of war in the Carranza cabinet. Official announcement of this fact was made at Fort Sam Houston today.

The result of this conference is expected to determine the future attitude of the American government with reference to keeping American troops in Mexico and continuing the hunt for Francisco Villa.

International News Service: EL PASO, Texas, April 24.—Alarming reports of open Carranzista hostility toward the American troops in Mexico reached the border today. A rumor was brought from Juarez early today that a large force of Carranza troops attacked a small body of American soldiers near Satero on Sunday and that in the battle which followed many were killed or injured.

Attempts to confirm this rumor at Gen. Gavira's headquarters in Juarez failed, the Carranza leader stating that he had received no "official" word of any conflict.

Satero is north of Parral and is the point to which the American troops fell back after the bloody encounter at Parral.

The Mexican situation is now entering its second and more serious phase. The decision of the United States government to keep up the hunt for Francisco Villa in defiance of the demands of the de facto Mexican government is expected to force the hand of the Mexican officials.

Warns Americans. Complete evidence of this was given by notification from Gen. Luis Gutierrez, military commander of the state of Chihuahua, that if the American troops attempted to move south of the points where they are now concentrated, they will be subject to attack by Carranza forces.

Gen. Gutierrez sent this warning to U. S. Consul Marion Letcher at Chihuahua City to be transmitted to the American government.

Consul Letcher is reported to have sent the information given him to Washington immediately over the Mexican telegraph lines.

The warning from Gutierrez in the opinion of officers at Fort Bliss, rendered the situation most critical, coming at the moment when Carranzista officers were awaiting Pres't Wilson's formal reply to the demand that American troops be withdrawn.

Obregon May Go to Border. Mexico City dispatches state that Gen. Alvaro Obregon, minister of war in the Carranza government, and virtual dictator of Mexico, is coming to the border to confer with Maj. Gen. Funston, but it is feared that the Carranza forces in the north will get beyond control before Obregon can arrive. In the meantime, Gen. Luis Herrera, the "bringer of hope" is gathering strong Carranza forces about him in the vicinity of Chihuahua.

The Villista bandits, too, are resuming their activities in Durango, wrecking trains and raiding villages and ranches. Their latest outrage occurred Sunday, when they wrecked two trains about 80 miles south of Chihuahua City, killing 24 Mexicans.

ABANDON HOPE TO GET VILLA. International News Service: SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 24.—All hope of the immediate capture of Francisco Villa, dead or alive, has been abandoned by the American expedition which entered Mexico for the one purpose of destroying the scourge of the border. This much was admitted today by army officers when they found that Gen. Pershing's punitive expedition had